

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-07 /055 W
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O 241502Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4293
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0726

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, CY
SUBJ: CARAMANLIS PROPOSES SPRING SUMMIT WITH ECEVIT AFTER
ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS

REF: (A) ATHENS 0693 (NOTAL), (B) ANKARA 590 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RESPONDED QUICKLY ON
JANUARY 23 TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S LETTER OF
JANUARY 22 IN WHICH ECEVIT SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING
CARAMANLIS PERSONALLY "AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO
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ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE THAT MAY CLEAR THE WAY FOR FINDING
MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS" (REF. B).
IN HIS REPLY, CARAMANLIS SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING
COULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE SPRING "AFTER THE CONTACTS
AND MEETINGS THAT ARE FORESEEN HAVE TAKEN PLACE."
HE ALSO REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING
"MUST BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED".

2. ALTHOUGH CARAMANLIS DID NOT SPELL OUT WHAT HE MEANT BY "CONTACTS AND MEETINGS" THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN AND THE GREEK PRESS QUOTE "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS" AS COMMENTING THESE INCLUDE THE TALKS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF SCHEDULED TO RESUME IN PARIS ON FEBRUARY 12, THE PROMISED TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. CARAMANLIS MADE HIS PROPOSAL FOR A SPRING SUMMIT MEETING JUST BEFORE DEPARTING ON A ROUND OF MEETINGS (JANUARY 25 - 31) TO LONDON, BRUSSELS, PARIS AND BONN TO SEEK THE SPEEDING UP OF GREECE'S EC ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS ISSUES SUCH AS CYPRUS AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS.

3. THE TEXT OF CARAMANLIS' REPLY IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION) "THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 22 JANUARY.

"AS YOU WELL KNOW, I PERSONALLY BELIEVE -- AND I HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THIS PUBLICLY -- THAT THE RESTORATION OF RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IS TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR PEOPLES. AND I HAVE GIVEN TANGIBLE PROOF OF THIS BELIEF BOTH RECENTLY AND IN THE PAST.

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"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A PERSONAL MEETING BETWEEN US COULD PROVE USEFUL. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO BE USEFUL -- AS WE BOTH WANT IT TO BE -- IT MUST BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED. OTHERWISE, THE FAILURE TO REALIZE THE EXPECTATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN CREATED COULD MAKE SOLUTIONS MORE DIFFICULT RATHER THAN FACILITATE THEM.

"IN MY OPINION, OUR MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE SPRING AND AFTER THE CONTACTS AND MEETINGS THAT ARE ANTICIPATED HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

"WITH SINCERE WISHES FOR THE HAPPINESS OF YOURSELF AND OF THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY, CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS."
END TEXT

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4. COMMENT. THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT A SUMMIT MEETING WITH ECEVIT SINCE HE IS NOT YET CONVINCED OF ECEVIT'S SINCERITY OR HIS REAL INTENTIONS IN PROPOSING SUCH A MEETING TO CARAMANLIS. FOR THIS REASON, CARAMANLIS HAS MADE A SUMMIT MEETING CONTINGENT

ON ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS AND A DEMONSTRATION OF TURKEY'S GOOD
FAITH. FOR EVIDENCE OF THIS HE WILL BE LOOKING TO THE SPECIFICS
OF ECEVIT'S PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS AND TURKISH PERFORMANCE AT THE
FEBRUARY 12 MEETING ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.
MILLS

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